

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under its Rural Business Hub initiative, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been working to promote the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesel by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The Union Government is acting as a facilitator between the State Governments, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Corporate Sector with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Interested PRIs are being introduced to business houses which express their desire to encourage the local community to take up Jatropha cultivation in their respective jurisdiction. Three MoUs in this connection have been signed between D-1 Oils (India) on the one hand, and PRIs in the districts of Mewat, Faridabad and Yamuna Nagar in Haryana, on the other, backed up by a letter of intent from the Indian Oil Corporation to D-1 Oil offering to purchase bio-diesel so produced within the framework of Government's Bio-diesel Purchase Policy formulated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The Union Government, in association with State Governments, PRIs and the Petroleum Conservator and Research Association (PCRA), has conducted several awareness programmes on the plantation of Jatropha, collection of seeds and extraction of oil for the production of bio-diesel. A joint Committee of the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Panchayati Raj and the Planning Commission has been formed with different stakeholders and specialized technical agencies to encourage PRIs to involve themselves through RHB, in promoting the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesel.

Raising of Retirement Age

2487. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the retirement age of Central Government employees from 60 years to 62 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) No such proposal at present, is under consideration of the Ministry of Personnel.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Provision for Deputation and Employment in Private Bodies

2488. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions of service and conduct rules of All India Service Officers for their deputation and employment in private sector and world bodies while serving Government and after retirement; and

(b) the public interest that is served by service outside Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) The All India Service Officers may be deputed for service under an international organisation by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government. The Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service Officers can also be deputed to a private body by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments concerned. Retired All India Service officers cannot take up commercial employment before the expiry of two years from the date of retirement except with the approval of the Government. The conduct Rules of All India Service officers provide for obtaining prior approval of the Government for negotiating or undertaking any employment.

(b) The general principle of public interest is the overriding factor in deciding deputation of officers to private bodies and world bodies. Such deputation results in enrichment of experience for the officer and also contributes to mutual goodwill and understanding between India and foreign countries which is eventually in public interest.

Recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission

†2489. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations of Administrative Reforms Commission;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.